

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER

FOR THE YEAR

1963



WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER  
FOR THE YEAR, 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Little Lever Urban District Council :

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever, during the year ended December 31st, 1963.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 5,550, compared with 5,088 at the time of the 1961 Census. There are 1,968 inhabited houses in the district, as against 1,914 in 1962. This gives a rate of approximately three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £145,356, and the sum raised by a penny rate is £535.

Social conditions are fairly good, and there is very little unemployment. The district is chiefly industrial in character, the main industries being paper making, ebonite and plastics manufacturing, pre-cast concrete making, brick making, light engineering and dairy farming, and chemical manufacturing.

Births

The number of live births registered in 1963 was 133, as against 115 in 1962. This figure comprises 68 males and 65 females. There were two illegitimate births, comprising no males and two females. The birth rate is 23.2 per 1,000 of population, as against 21.6 in 1962, and a mean rate of 19.7 for the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1963 was 18.2.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1963 was 58, made up of 32 males and 26 females, and is a decrease of 13 on the figure for 1962. The death rate is 12.2 per 1,000 of population, as against 16.7 for 1962, and a mean rate of 15.1 for the previous five years. The death rate for England and Wales in 1963 was 12.2.

The average age at death was 57 years for males and 66 years for females.

Still Births

There were three still births in 1963, giving a rate of 22.1 per 1,000 of total births, compared with a Nil rate in 1962, and a mean rate of 22.2 for the previous five years.

Infantile Mortality

There were three deaths of children under the age of one year in 1963, compared with five in 1962. The figure includes two males and one female, and gives a rate of 22.6 per 1,000 of live births, compared with a rate of 43.5 in 1962, and a mean rate of 26.2 for the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1963 was 20.9.

Neo-Natal Mortality

There were three Neo-Natal deaths in 1963, comprising two males and one female, giving a rate of 15.0 per 1,000 of live births. The Neo-Natal Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1963 was 14.2.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in 1963, giving a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, the same as in 1962, and a mean rate of 1.24 for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1963 was 0.28.



### Midwifery Services

No midwives reside in the township, but there are three midwives, employed by the Lancashire County Council, who reside in Farnworth and Kearsley and who are available for cases in Little Lever. They are easily accessible, as each has a car and is on the telephone. As in previous years, they have given a most efficient and satisfactory service, and no complaints have been received.

Many midwifery cases have been admitted to the Bolton and District General Hospital and to Maternity Homes outside the district, but many cases have been successfully completed in the homes of the patients.

### General Provision of Health Services in the District

<u>Clinics and Treatment Centres</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Provided by</u>
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lancashire County Council
Ante Natal Clinic	" "	" " "
School Clinic	" "	" " "
Chiropody	" "	" " "

### Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified in 1963.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths in Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	4	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	84	40	44	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	23	15	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	3	2	1	Nil	Nil	2
Food Poisoning	3	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	1	2	3	Nil	Nil
Totals:	126	64	62	3	Nil	2

### Sex and Age Incidence in Infectious Diseases

see overleaf



Sex and Age Incidence in Infectious Diseases

<u>Age Periods</u> <u>in years</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Measles</u>		<u>Dysentery</u>		<u>Pneumonia</u>		<u>Food Poisoning</u>		<u>Tuberculosis</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	1	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	2	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	1	-	-	-	7	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	1	-	-	-	5	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	-	-	-	-	7	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	2	-	-	16	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
25 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	-	1	-	-	-	1
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals :	3	3	3	1	40	44	15	8	2	1	-	3	1	2





The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1963 was Nil, as against a Nil rate in 1962, and a mean rate of 0.08 for the previous five years. The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System for England and Wales in 1963 was 0.063 per 1,000 of population.

#### Causes of Death

<u>Disease causing death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	4	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	6	1	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	5	7
Other Heart Disease	-	3	3
Other Circulatory Disease	-	2	2
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other Accidents	2	-	2
Totals :	32	26	58

There were 7 deaths from Cancer in 1963, compared with 14 in 1962. This gives a death rate of 1.26 per 1,000 of population, as against 2.63 in 1962, and a mean rate of 1.92 for the previous five years.

The death rate from Cancer in England and Wales in 1963 was 2.18.

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Once again, no cases of this disease were notified during 1963.

#### District Nursing

There is one District Nurse resident in the district. Nurse Jackson has been the District Nurse for many years, and as usual, has carried out her duties in a most conscientious manner. She has closely identified herself with the life of the community and has been not only a very efficient nurse, but a real friend to a large number of patients.

The Home Help Service has again been invaluable in relieving hardship amongst the sick and aged. Most of the members of this Service are very willing and carry out their duties in a cheerful and efficient manner. They have been a source of real help and comfort to those who have needed their services, but unfortunately, there is still an increasing demand for the services of the Home Helps, but not sufficient personnel to deal with the demand.

#### Old People's Welfare Committee

This Committee is still functioning in a very satisfactory manner, and has been most beneficial to the older members of the community. The Officials and Members of the Committee have shown great interest in the work and have spared no effort to keep the organisation in a sound and healthy condition.



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<https://archive.org/details/b29735816>

The Meals on Wheels Service has again been very successful and has been greatly appreciated by the recipients. The success of this Service has again been due to the kindness of the United Ebonite & Lorival Co., in providing the meals from their canteen at cost price and to the valuable help of car owners, the Local Council, and volunteers from the Committee, in delivering the hot meals to the homes of the elderly and sick people.

The Committee have organised various fund raising events from time to time, with the result that the organisation is on a sound financial basis. There can be no doubt that the activities of the Committee have done a great deal towards alleviating the problem of loneliness among the old people who have every reason to be grateful to Members of the Committee for their continued interest in this good work.

The district is very well served in regard to hospital accommodation, and no difficulty has been encountered in getting urgent cases admitted, but there is still, at times, considerable difficulty in getting old and chronically ill patients into hospital due, presumably, to shortage of staff and of beds.

## Adoptive Acts in Force

## Sanitary Accommodation

Privy Middens.....	1
Closets attached to these middens.....	2
Waste Water Closets.....	24
Fresh Water Closets.....	1,968
Moveable Dustbins.....	1,985
Number of Houses on water carriage system..	1,968

During 1963, three waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.





## Sanitary Inspections

During 1963, the number of premises visited for the purpose of sanitary inspections was 225, involving a total of 360 visits. As a result of these visits, 88 defects or nuisances were discovered. All 88 were abated as a result of the issuing of 85 informal notices and 3 statutory notices. No legal procedure was required.

Bakehouses, dairies and cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found to be in satisfactory condition.

There are five dairy farms in the district, but no complaints have been made about the quality of the milk produced.

There are 16 food shops in the district, supplying general groceries and provisions. In addition, there are 8 shops which supply greengroceries and fruits (including wet fish, game etc.) one fishmonger's shop, 7 meat shops, 7 bakery and confectionery shops, and 6 fried fish shops. All have been visited and inspected periodically and found to be satisfactory. Standards of hygiene are noticeably higher than they used to be and shopkeepers generally are much more careful in the display and handling of foodstuffs. Three cases of Food Poisoning were notified during 1963. Two cases were due to eating pressed beef which had been kept overnight in hot weather, but no cause was found for the third case. None of the cases was serious.

Model Bye-laws for Food Hygiene are in force, and notices to shops and canteens are issued from time to time for the purpose of maintaining a high standard of hygiene.

## Water Supply

The water supply is from the Bolton Corporation Water Board (Irwell Valley Division) and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with a piped supply being 1,968.

During 1963, 351 bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made, and all were unsatisfactory. In addition, 851 bacteriological examinations and 43 chemical analyses of the water going into supply after treatment, were carried out, and all were found to be satisfactory.

The water supply comes from reservoirs into which upland surface water flows. All supplies are chlorinated, and any water with a plumbo-solvent action is lime treated. The water supply on the whole is very satisfactory, but there are several houses with a very low water pressure, due to old service pipes requiring renewal.

During 1963, 54 yards of 3 inch diameter pipes were laid for existing dwellings, and 281 yards of 3 inch diameter pipes, 21 yards of 4 inch diameter pipes and 322 yards of 6 inch diameter pipes were laid for new dwellings.

## Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The methods used for sewage disposal have again been quite satisfactory during the year. The sewage is treated by screening, sedimentation and filtration. No extensions to the sewage works were carried out in 1963. The Council are Members of the Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board, and the Trunk Sewer to serve the area is expected to be connected to the Ginger Fold Sewage Works during the first half of 1964.

There are three houses in the district without sewerage systems, due to the fact that they cannot be connected to a sewer. Septic tanks, of which there are two in the district, are kept in order by the owners at their expense. During 1963, 114 new houses were connected up to the sewerage system.



Sewage and Refuse Disposal (Continued)

House refuse is collected by the Council's covered motor wagon. Collections are made each week, and the one remaining privy midden is cleared each fortnight. All the refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

All sewers and manholes have been periodically inspected, and sewers have been flushed and manholes cleaned from time to time. In addition, regular treatment has been carried out to control rat infestation.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council are members of the South East Lancashire and North Cheshire Consultative Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution. There are 11 factory chimneys in the district. Two observations on these were taken during the year but no action or legal proceedings were needed. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per half hour. Personal contact by the Public Health Inspector is maintained with works managers, and consultations with H.M. Alkali Inspector, to deal with problems of dust and fumes from a chemical plant in the district, are held when required. All possible steps are taken to keep the emission of black smoke down to a minimum.

It has still not been practicable to put into force the Bye-laws under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. The proposed smokeless zone containing 239 houses and other buildings is in abeyance owing to technical difficulties. Once again it has to be put on record that atmospheric pollution regularly occurs from acrid blue smoke from a foundry in the district and from fine dust blown from heavily laden coal wagons passing through the district.

Housing

During 1963, 36 new houses were completed under Council contracts, and 78 new houses were built by other bodies or persons. Further progress in housing is envisaged by the acceptance of tenders for the building of 18 Old Persons'dwellings with Warden's Block in Arthur Street, and for five three-bedroomed and ten two-bedroomed houses on the Settle Street/Booth Road site, whilst plans are being prepared for building 24 flats and maisonettes in the Alice Street/Heywood Street area.

Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority

1.	Under 1919 Scheme.....	113
2.	Under Housing Act, 1923.....	11
3.	Under Housing Act, 1924.....	122
4.	Erected during 1936.....	30
5.	" " 1937.....	38
6.	" " 1938.....	34
7.	" " 1947.....	14
8.	" " 1948.....	32
9.	" " 1949.....	44
10.	" " 1951.....	30
11.	" " 1952.....	22
12.	" " 1955.....	52
13.	" " 1956.....	58
14.	" " 1957.....	12
15.	" " 1959.....	40
16.	" " 1961.....	40
17.	" " 1963.....	36

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The general standard of housing in the district is reasonable and compares favourably with that of neighbouring townships. The commonest type of house is the four-roomed cottage, built in rows, each with two bedrooms. There are about 600 of these, but about 150 of these are in a poor state and ought to be demolished. The main





defects to be found are dampness, low ceilings, and absence of bathrooms and inside lavatories, poor water pressure, absence of hot water systems, and old age. The majority of them have had no maintenance work done for many years and have steadily deteriorated. They are nothing more than anachronistic relics of the mid-Victorian years, and nobody, apart from their owners, would mourn their demolition.

During 1963, there were 15 applications submitted to the Council for Standard Grants and all were approved. Of these, nine were for all five amenities, one was for four amenities, and five were for one amenity. In all cases the work was completed before the end of the year. There were no applications during 1963 for Improvement Grants. The number of applications for Standard Grants and for Improvement Grants is still disappointingly small. There are many older houses in the district which could be renovated at a reasonable expense and their useful life prolonged, but owners of such houses do not appear to appreciate the advantages of this scheme.

The building of houses for sale, by private builders, is increasing in the area. During 1963, 78 houses were built for sale. This has resulted in an influx of newcomers to the district, with a consequent rise in the population figure.

The waiting list for Council Houses continues to diminish, due to the building of houses by the Council and by private builders.

Slum clearance again showed an improvement in 1963. Eleven houses were demolished under the provisions of the Housing Act 1957, and 24 houses, declared unfit, were closed under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957. The closure of these houses involved the displacement of 24 families, comprising 50 persons. In addition, 74 houses in which defects were found, were rendered fit by the owners after informal action by the local authority and two further houses with defects were rendered fit by the owners, after formal notice under Public Health Acts.

A few cases of overcrowding still remain, but they are diminishing and should soon be eliminated.

### Town Planning

The County Council have delegated powers to the Local Authority for the purposes of Town Planning. The closest co-operation exists between the Local Authority and the County Council in all matters relating to Town Planning.

### Disinfection

Three houses were disinfected during the year after notifications of infectious diseases. The method used is Formalin Gas in the sealed room of the house.

Five Council Houses and one other house were found to be infested and were disinfested by the use of pressure spraying with insecticide and with insecticidal lacquers.

### Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccinations against Smallpox and immunisations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, together with immunisation against Poliomyelitis have been carried out during the year by the staff of the Mytham Road Clinic, and by general practitioners. Most of the immunisations are carried out in the Clinic as parents are now convinced of the benefits of these procedures. The actual figures of vaccinations and immunisations will be shown in the Annual Report of the Divisional Medical Officer for the No.11 District, of which Little Lever is a part.



General Observations

The general health of the district in 1963 was reasonably good. There was a small increase in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases, due mainly to Measles, but there were no serious cases and nothing noteworthy occurred.

Both the death rate and the birth rate are a great improvement on the rates for 1962, and the death rate for Cancer was much improved on the rate for 1962. The Infantile Mortality rate was less, and it is very encouraging to be able to record the absence of maternal deaths and the absence of deaths from Tuberculosis.

The population of the township is steadily increasing, due partly to the building, by private builders, of houses for sale, and partly to the progress made by the Council in building houses to rent. The present population is the highest ever recorded in my period as Medical Officer of Health.

Slum clearance is still a problem, but some progress was made during 1963, and it is a pleasure to have the impression that the Council realise the importance of this problem, and intend to tackle it with realism and determination.

The School Clinic and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic have once again been of inestimable value to the community and have been fully appreciated. The staff of the Clinic have done excellent work and are deserving of the highest praise.

The amenities provided by the Council, such as the bowling-green, tennis courts and playing-fields have been, as usual, well patronised, and have been a great source of enjoyment to both young and old.

This is the 36th Annual Report I have compiled, and it is my last one as Medical Officer of Health to the Little Lever U.D.C. Since my appointment in 1927, many changes have occurred in the district, and Little Lever is a much better place in which to live and work than it was in 1927. In conclusion, I wish to put on record my sincere thanks to all the Councillors both past and present, with whom I have been associated over the years and to the Officials and Staff who have always been most helpful.

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

May 26th, 1964.



Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories  
Act, 1961, during the year 1963  
(Ref. item (14) page 9 of form Stat.11)

PART I OF THE ACT

(14) 1 - INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	4	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	31	6	1	Nil

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Out-work)					
Total	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil





3. Outwork. (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work  (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Signed : W. MOTTERSHEAD  
Medical Officer of Health

Date: March 18th, 1964.

